

INVENTORSHIP DECLARATION BY KIMBERLY R. KUHLMAN

I, Kimberly R. Kuhlman, HEREBY DECLARE THAT:

1. I am one of the named inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

A METHOD OF SAMPLE PREPARATION FOR ATOM PROBES AND SOURCE OF SPECIMENS by Kuhlman, et al.

the specification of which:

- is attached hereto.
- was filed on July 29, 2003 as Application No. 10/629,015.

2. I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.
3. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56, including, for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.
4. In accordance with my duty to disclose information, which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56, I hereby disclose the following:
5. Imago Scientific Instruments Corporation ("Imago") had a research and development collaboration regarding local electrode atom probes and related technology with the California Institute of Technology ("CALTECH") and Jet Propulsion Laboratory ("JPL"), which is an operating division of CALTECH (hereinafter "JPL").
6. An aspect of this collaboration between JPL and Imago included atom probe microscopy of geological materials. See e.g. Kuhlman, K.R., R.L. Martens, T.F. Kelly, N.D. Evans and M.K. Miller (2001) "Field Ion Microscopy and Three-Dimensional Atom Probe Analysis of Metamorphic Magnetite Crystals," *Ultramicroscopy*, **89**, 169-176.
7. Pursuant to this agreement, and other agreements, including a Nondisclosure Agreement, I had access to Imago's proprietary information, resources and its facilities.
8. I gained awareness and understanding of atom probes, in part, at the University of Wisconsin from interactions with Dr. Thomas F. Kelly while a student there.

1/28/2006

Inventorship Declaration by Kimberly R. Kuhlman re Patent Application 10/629,015

Page 2 of 2

9. As a result of the collaboration, which began on or about September of 2000 and ended in late 2003, I and Dr. Thomas F. Kelly and Richard Martens of Imago worked closely together.
10. Dr. Thomas F. Kelly and Richard Martens participated in numerous joint technology discussions and proposals to NASA and JPL regarding local electrode atom probes, which included sample or specimen preparation for atom probes analysis.
11. During the period of collaboration, I co-published publications with Dr. Thomas F. Kelly and Richard Martens. See e.g., Kuhlman, K.R., R.L. Martens, T.F. Kelly, N.D. Evans and M.K. Miller (2001) "Field Ion Microscopy and Three-Dimensional Atom Probe Analysis of Metamorphic Magnetite Crystals," *Ultramicroscopy*, **89**, 169-176.
12. During confidential discussions that were part of this collaboration, Dr. Thomas F. Kelly disclosed his conception of specific aspects of laser micromachining, Claim 12. This was independent of my own conception of laser micromachining.
13. Similarly, Richard Martens described to me his conception of the specific aspects of Claim 7 directed at filling each microgroove with a supporting material following my disclosure of the use of a dicing saw for sample preparation.
14. There does not appear to be any reasonable dispute that claims the '051 application is based upon and describes technology disclosed to me as a result of JPL's collaboration with Imago.
15. I believe that Dr. Thomas F. Kelly and Richard Martens must be identified as co-inventors to the subject matter that is claimed and for which a patent is sought in the above-referenced applications and any related applications.
16. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

So sworn and signed this, 28th day of January, 2006:



Kimberly R. Kuhlman
A Named Inventor, U.S. Patent Application No. 10/629,015

1/28/2006